

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/601,539	KURAMORI ET AL.	
	Examiner Adrienne C. Johnstone	Art Unit 1733	<i>JK</i>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to application filed 24 June 2003.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.

3. The drawings filed on 24 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 082803
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____.

Adrienne C. Johnstone
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1733

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: German Patent Application 101 61 365 A1 discloses the tire/wheel assembly of at least claim 1, the run-flat support member of at least claim 6, and the method of claim 10 but does not appear to qualify as prior art in this application because the June 26, 2003 publication date of the German Patent Application is subsequent to the June 24, 2003 filing date of this application. Hellweg et al. (6,463,974 B1), Glinz et al. (6,463,976 B1), Dieckmann et al. (6,619,350 B1), Glinz et al. (6,672,349 B1), and US Patent Application Publication 2002/0195183 A1 all disclose examples of the prior art run-flat support member similar to the claimed run-flat support member but wherein the circular shell is either of unitary construction or segmented in the circumferential direction and therefore is not formed by *jointing side edges of at least two shell segments each having a single convex circumferential surface*. Although it is well known to join together the two halves of run-flat support segments, as evidenced by UK Patent Application 2 204 841 A and German Patent Application DE 37 33 515 A1 for example, the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest applicants' run-flat support member of claims 6-9, tire/wheel assembly of claims 1-5 including the run-flat support member, and method of manufacturing a run-flat support member of claim 10, including the circumferential shell being formed by jointing side edges of at least two shell segments to each other and each circular shell segment having a single convex circumferential surface, in the claimed environment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adrienne C. Johnstone whose telephone number is (571)272-1218. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30AM-7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on (571)272-1156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Adrienne C. Johnstone
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1733

Adrienne Johnstone

September 28, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrienne C. Johnstone".